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HEADQUARTERS
184TH ORDNANCE BATTALION (AMMUNITION)(DIRECT SUPPORT)
APO US Forces 96238

AVLC-QUI-184ORD-CO FOR OT RD 660093

6 May 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1966 RCS CSGPO-28 (RI).

AD827142

THRU: Commanding General
US Army Support Command, Qui Nhon
ATTN: AVLC-QUI-SP&O (Historian)
APO US Forces 96238

Commanding General
1st Logistical Command
ATTN: AVLC-GO-O
APO US Forces 96307

Commanding General
United States Army, Vietnam
ATTN: AVC
APO US Forces 96307

Commanding General
United States Army, Pacific
ATTN: GPOP-MH
Fort Shefter, Hawaii

TO: Asst Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

SECTION I

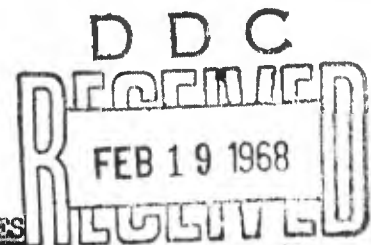
SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Background Information:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 184th Ordnance Battalion (Ammunition)(Direct Support) was alerted for deployment to Vietnam on

STATEMENT #2 UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR OT RD
660093

Incl 3

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6 September 1965. The unit, then stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, was functioning primarily as an administrative headquarters, having operational control of only one of its seven attached units.

Upon alert, the battalion lost control of all its attached units and assumed the sole mission of preparation for movement overseas.

Although the unit was not at full TO&E strength at time of alert, adequate time was allowed for preparation and when the unit departed Fort Sill on 8 December 1965 it was at full TO&E strength and fully prepared for deployment overseas.

The main party departed CONUS on 9 December 1965 by surface transport. The advance party departed CONUS one day after the main body and although they arrived in Vietnam two weeks prior to the main body, they were relatively ineffective. Had they arrived in the country prior to the main body departing its CONUS station, they could have furnished the unit valuable information as to unique supplies, materials, and equipment required in the Theater.

The main party arrived at Qui Nhon, Vietnam on 31 December 1965 and bivouaced in Valley "C", Phu Thanh, Vietnam. The majority of the unit's equipment was off-loaded at another port causing a 15 day delay in the unit receiving its equipment.

During the Period 1 January 1966 to 30 April 1966:

Although the unit was not given an operational mission immediately upon arrival in Vietnam, coordination and liaison with higher headquarters and existing ammunition units began immediately.

On 13 January 1966, HHC, 184th Ordnance Battalion (Ammunition) (Direct Support) was reassigned from the United States Army Vietnam to the 1st Logistical Command. At this time, the Battalion Commander and the Materiel Section of the battalion headquarters moved from Valley "C", Phu Thanh into the United States Army Support Command, Qui Nhon headquarters complex and began functioning in the capacity of Director of Ammunition.

On 17 January 1966 the battalion was reassigned from 1st Logistical Command to United States Army Support Command, Qui Nhon. Also on this date the 820th Ordnance Company (Ammunition) was attached to the battalion for operational, logistical and administrative control to include administration of military justice.

AVIC-QUI-184ORD-CO

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The 820th Ordnance Company (Ammunition) maintains a bivouac area in Valley "C", Phu Thanh, Vietnam and has the mission of operating the Qui Nhon Ammunition Supply Point.

On 23 January 1966, HHC, 184th Ordnance Battalion (Ammunition)(Direct Support) having received the majority of its TO&E equipment, moved to a permanent location in the city of Qui Nhon, Vietnam. Billets, mess and maintenance facilities were established in the company area and the staff sections of the battalion headquarters joined the Battalion Commander and the Materiel Section in the USASC, Qui Nhon headquarters complex.

By 24 January 1966, all of the battalion staff sections were fully operational, performing the normal functions of an ammunition battalion headquarters and also the additional responsibilities of Director of Ammunition.

On 12 February 1966, in conjunction with a request from this headquarters, the 205th Ordnance Platoon (Ammunition) was moved from Pleiku, Vietnam to Valley "C", Phu Thanh and attached to the battalion. This unit was attached to supplement the 820th Ordnance Company (Ammunition) which was struggling under a greatly increased workload at the Qui Nhon Ammunition Supply Point.

During the period 25 January 1966 through 6 March 1966, the battalion supported Operations "Masher", "Cyclone", "White Wing", "Harrison", and "Van Buren" by issuing Class V Ammunition through direct support ASP's to the combat elements. Technical assistance personnel of the 820th Ordnance Company (Ammunition), established a forward Ammunition Supply Point in support of Operations "Masher" and "White Wing". This forward ASP received approximately 6,282 short tons of ammunition and issued, in support of Operations "Masher" and "White Wing", 5,110.4 short tons, a daily average of 143.8 tons. It was during this period that the 820th Ordnance Company (Ammunition) minus 30 EM received approximately 15,190 short tons of Class V Ammunition from off shore. Although the entire company had been operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in 12 hour shifts since their arrival in country, this operation required most members of the company to work shifts from 18 to 20 hours a day.

From 22 March 1966 through 30 April 1966 the battalion and its attached elements supported Operations "Lincoln", "Longfellow", and "Mosby". As before, technical assistance personnel from the battalion headquarters, teamed with the 820th Ordnance Company (Ammunition), at Qui Nhon, the 661st Ordnance Company (Ammunition), at An Khe, and the 188th Ordnance Company (Ammunition), at Pleiku issued Class V Ammunition through direct support ASP's to the combat elements.

AVLC-QUI-184ORD-GO

6 May 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1966 RCS CSGPO-28 (RI).

Ammunition resupply, shipping and issuing were coordinated by the battalion's Materiel and Stock Control Sections, during all of the supported operations.

During the period covered by this report, the battalion and its attached units have received approximately 30,100 tons of ammunition and have issued approximately 25,900 tons. The current stockage objective at Qui Nhon is 19,892 tons.

The battalion's Explosive Disposal Section has completed 255 incidents and has maintained constant liaison with supported units. The section has furnished personnel to augment the 85th EOD at Pleiku and the 25th EOD at An Khe during operations in those areas.

A major problem area has been the overcrowded storage conditions at the Qui Nhon Ammunition Supply Point. This problem is being eliminated by the construction of a new Ammunition Supply Depot in the Phu Tai Valley, south of Qui Nhon. This Depot currently has 30 storage pads completed. Affording a usable storage area of 63,000 square feet. The estimated date of completion of the entire project is 30 September 1966.

SECTION II

COMMANDERS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Personnel: Due to the greatly increased ammunition workload at Qui Nhon and the addition of a new Ammunition Depot, recommend that an additional Ammunition Company be assigned to the battalion and stationed at Qui Nhon.

2. General: Since this unit's arrival in Vietnam it has not yet failed to accomplish its assigned missions of both an Ammunition Battalion Headquarters and Directorate of Ammunition. With the exception of the recommendation mentioned in Par 1 above there are no recommendations of operational significance to be made at this time.

LESSONS LEARNED

AMMUNITION PACKING

ITEM: AMMUNITION PACKING CONTAINERS AND MATERIALS.

AVLC-QN-184,ORD-CO

6 May 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1966 RCS CSGPO-28 (RI).

DISCUSSION: Using units are not returning packing containers and materials generated by expended rounds. Packing containers and materials are required in the conduct of normal maintenance operations by ammunition units.

OBSERVATION: All ammunition packing materials should be returned to an Ammunition Supply Point by the using unit.

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

ITEM: WEAKNESS OF AN/GRC-46C

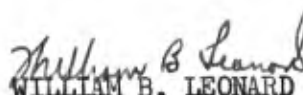
DISCUSSION: The transistorized blower in the transmitter of the C model radio teletypewriter set is inferior to the blower, run by a conventional motor, found on the B model. When the transmitter heats, during the transmission of lengthy ammunition stock-status reports, the two transistors burn out. With the blower inoperative the fuzes in the transmitter quickly burn out. This critical equipment will stay deadlined until either a new transmitter can be located or transistors of the similar design can be found.

OBSERVATION: An improved blower is needed for the C model radio teletypewriter to eliminate the overheating problems encountered during sustained transmissions.

ITEM: ANTENNA MAST, AB-155

DISCUSSION: When a unit is given a frequency of about 6MC or greater, three (3) Antenna Masts, AB-155, are needed to erect a doublet antenna. In most instances there are no trees, in the available areas, that will substitute. The Antenna Group AN/GRA-50, which has just been put into use, is a doublet antenna without the necessary poles.

OBSERVATION: TO&E 9-86F should be revised to provide the Antenna Masts needed for operating with a frequency of 6 MC or greater.


WILLIAM B. LEONARD
Lt Col, OrdCorps
Commanding

AVLC-QN-GO(6 May 66)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1966 RCS CSGPO-28 (RI).

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND, QUI NHON, APO US Forces 96238
12 May 1966.

TO: Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, Attn: AVLC-GO-C, APO
US Forces 96307.

1. In compliance with 1st Log Regulation 870-2, dated 16 December 1965, Subject: Historical Activities - Quarterly Command Report (RCS-CSGPO-28 (RI) the attached report prepared by the 184th Ordnance Battalion (AMMO) (DS) is hereby submitted.

2. Concur with the battalion commander's recommendation that an additional ammunition company be programmed for assignment to the US Army Support Command, Qui Nhon. The completion of a new ammo supply point and the anticipated expansion of existing Class V support capabilities justifies the requested augmentation.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



CHARLES L. NAEDEL

Captain, QMC

Acting Adjutant General

AVLC GO-H (6 May 66)

2nd Ind

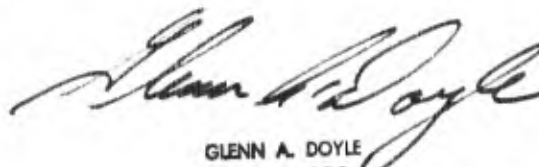
SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
30 April 1966. RCS CSGPO-28(RI)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, APO US Forces 96307, 7 JUN 1966

TO: Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, ATTN: AVC (HIST)
APO US Forces 96307

1. Forwarded in accordance with AR 525-24 and USARV Circular 870-1.
2. Concur with the comments as set forth in basic letter and 1st indorsement.
3. Reference Section II, Item Ammunition Packing Containers and Materials: On 9 April 1966, USARV directed action by subordinate commanders to return to ASP's all serviceable 2.75" rocket metal containers and wooden and fiber containers for 81 mm and 60 mm mortars.
4. Reference Section II, Communications Equipment:
 - a. The fallibility of transistorized blower and power supply of the T-195 transmitter has been recognized and is currently under investigation by USAECOM. It has been found that these failures can be materially reduced in locations where practicable by taking the following measures to reduce the transmitter ambient temperature and improving the circulation through it; rigorous adherence to schedule and method of cleaning the air filter; as outlined in paragraph 33, page 29, TM 11-5815-204-101; providing shade for the shelter; positioning of a household type fan to direct air into the shelter.
 - b. Unit is being advised to submit a change to their TO&E to include, three AB 155 A/V Antenna Mast, FSN 5280-251-2366 per AN/GRC-46 which has all the necessary components to erect one support.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



GLENN A. DOYLE
Capt, AGC
Asst. AG

AVC-DH (6 May 66)

3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1966 RCS CSGPO-28 (R1)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 22 JUN 1966


THRU: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-MH,
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. This headquarters concurs with the 184th Ordnance Battalion's
Operational Report on Lessons Learned and with the 1st and 2d Indorsement.

2. Reference Section II, paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement:
There is no ammunition company programmed for assignment to the 184th Ordnance
Battalion. Upon receipt of a formal request from the unit, this headquarters
will take appropriate action.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


R. J. THORNTON III
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adjutant General 1/1 LT ABC

GPOP-MH (6 May 66)

4th Ind

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 7 JUL 1966

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army,
Washington D.C. 20310

1. The Operational Report on Lessons Learned of the 184th Ordnance Battalion
for the period 1 January - 30 April 1966 is forwarded herewith.

2. This headquarters concurs with the basic report and the preceding
indorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



D. A. HARRISON
Capt, AGC
Asst AG